

That survey suggests that from March 2001 to February 2004, payroll jobs are down by 2.5 million.

Of course, another survey of jobs, the household survey, says that we have more jobs now than at any time in our history, 138 million jobs—138 million jobs—the most in our history under the household survey. We have not lost jobs by this measure; we have gained jobs, half a million jobs more than at any time in American history, leading to the question: Which survey is right?

Let's look at the statistical abstract for 2003. If you look at this abstract, which is the final word on facts and statistics in America, you will not see the measure showing job loss. Instead, the statistical abstract uses the job measure that says the U.S. today has the most jobs ever in our entire history.

This is the Economic Report of the President. Whether it is the report of a Democratic President or a Republican President, this report uses the job measure that says the U.S. today has the most jobs ever.

If you look at the unemployment rate announced today by the Labor Department, the unemployment rate calculation by that Department and repeated by every newspaper, TV, and radio, uses the job measure that says the U.S. has the most jobs ever—the most jobs ever—in our history.

If you ask the farmer, if you ask the self-employed worker, the private household worker, the domestic servant, or the family-run business, they are part of the job measure that says the U.S. has the most jobs ever—the most jobs ever.

These workers, roughly some 8 million and some of the hardest working in our country, the "sky is falling crowd" does not count these workers under the measure they use. We think they work for a living. My friends across the aisle apparently do not.

So, you can make this absurd charge about job losses if you ignore the statistical abstract, if you ignore the Presidential reports, if you ignore the Department of Labor's unemployment rate, and if you ignore 8 million workers, but after all is said and done, after we have all revved up the spin machine so that we are all dizzy, after all this is over, we are going to have an election. On that day, all the spinning will stop, and the American people will decide. They will decide if America is closer to the worst of times—the "sky is falling crowd" claim—or nearer to the best of times, as the facts suggest. I look forward to the day all the spin is set aside.

The unemployment rate today is a good number. We would like for it to get even better, but it is a good number. It is the same good number as in 1996 when President Clinton was bragging on it. It is the same good number as in 1996 when Senator KERRY was bragging on it. So I can say despite our challenges, despite 9/11 and recessions, stock crashes and corporate scandals,

our economy is strong, our security is rising.

Challenges remain, of course. We will not rest until everyone who wants a job can find a job. But for America, have no doubt about it, the best is yet to come. It is not behind us; it is ahead of us. I think the facts are compelling that the economy is good and getting better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

#### JOBS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for 38 months, the Bush administration has had job loss. We join in the celebration that we have had jobs created, and the President during the next 7 months until the election will have to create another 2.5 million jobs to not be known as the only President since Herbert Hoover who created no private sector jobs. So he has 2.5 million more jobs to go, and we hope that he beats Herbert Hoover's record.

Let me also say, the numbers that came out today indicate the unemployment rate went up this month. It was not stable. It went up. It went up from 5.6 percent to 5.7 percent. This number is not an irrelevant number.

I will also say that when Senator KERRY spoke, of course, he was dealing with what took place in the Clinton years. When President Clinton took office from President Bush 1, the unemployment rate was 7.4 percent. During President Clinton's administration, as a result of the very difficult deficit reduction vote that took place in 1993 where not a single Republican voted in the House or the Senate for the deficit reduction plan, the deficits disappeared and unemployment dropped downward significantly, from 7.4 percent to 4 percent. That is where we were when this man, the President of the United States George Bush, took office. Senator KERRY was talking about how good things were when it was 5.4 percent because it had dropped 2 percent from Bush 1 to Clinton 1.

The number of people unemployed in America today—5.7 percent—is not irrelevant. It is not irrelevant to the millions of Americans who are out of work. So many are out of work. The unemployment rolls are around 9 million or 10 million, but there are millions no longer listed on the unemployment rolls because they are taken off after they are unemployed for such a long period of time. The average time a person is unemployed in America today is almost 1 year. I do not think we should be doing high-fives out here.

I join with my friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky, in talking about it is good we have had for the first time in a long time a significant rise in the number of employed. But we have to go forward because during this President's term of office, we will have to gain about 2.5 million more jobs for him not to be considered a President in the same category as Herbert Hoover.

Speaking of ignoring past claims, the administration, as we know, claimed there would be millions of jobs created with these tax cuts, and we have lost jobs. Let me also say this: Of course, there are more jobs now than there were because we have millions more people in this country today. That is the reason.

As happy as we are with the creation of new jobs last month, let's understand we have a long way to go. We have gas prices that are high. Nevada has the second highest gas prices in America. We have to focus on the fact that we had nine Americans killed in Iraq yesterday. We have to focus on the fact that the number of dead in Iraq is now over 600. We have to focus on the fact now that casualties in Iraq are more than 3,500, with people missing arms, legs, and being paralyzed.

So we still have lots of problems. I have no doubt, and I join with my friend from Kentucky, about the greatness of America. We believe in the greatness of America, but as legislators we also believe we have an obligation to make our country even greater. That is why we think it is wrong that 8 million Americans are not going to be able to have overtime under the Bush rule that has been promulgated. We also think it is wrong that people who are on minimum wage are not going to get an increase as other people in America are getting. We think that is important. We also believe those people who are going off the unemployment rolls every week deserve extended unemployment benefits, as was done during the Reagan administration and during the first Bush administration.

So there is a lot of work we have to do. I hope next month we can again be talking about the increased jobs. Certainly it is something we should be happy about.

#### CBO REPORTS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108-236 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003 was filed, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report which is now available be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the Information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, March 25, 2004.

Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1576, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.